United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
209 East Mulberry, Suite 500, Angleton, Texas 77515
Phone: (979) 849-5251 • Fax: (979) 849-7190 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx

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Contact Name: Deborah Wright
Telephone Number: 979-849-5251
Email: Deborah.Wright@tx.usda.gov

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS GALVESTON COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT \$626,000

GALVESTON, TEXAS, August 31, 2005 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that the Galveston County Water Control and Improvement District was awarded \$626,000 through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Natural Disaster Grant Program. The funds will be used to construct a new 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank and add new isolation valves to the water system to minimize shut down to 196 customers served by this project.

"The funds we are awarding to the Galveston County Water Control and Improvement District were partially available to communities affected by Hurricane Claudette in 2003," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development strives to provide rural Texans with the resources needed to satisfy their health and safety needs and enhance their quality of life."

USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis and Indian tribes that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by funding new and improved water and wastewater facilities, providing funds to governmental entities, non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 with a mission to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Angleton office at (979) 849-5251 or visit our website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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